InforiuaiioB and Cultural Centres in Indian Embassies

_<9. SHRI K. RAIMAN KUAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(u) whether ail our Embassies and Ili^h Commissions are having Information, and Cultural Centres attached;

(b) if so, names of Embassies in O.I.C. countries iiaving Information and Cultural Centres attached and the uaiure oi activities they are carrying on; and

te) what are the steps taken up by our missions in O.I.C. countries to eoumer the Pakistan's anti-Indian propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THi. MiNISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Every Indian Embassy abroad has an Information Wing. In addition, Indian Council for Cultural Relations has established Cultural Centres in ten countries.

(b) In all the Indian Embassies in O.I.C. countries, there exists Information Whigs. Of the ten Cultural Centres, established by Indian Council for Cultural Relations, four are in O.I.C. countries, namely Egypt (Cairo), lnd.meja (Jakarta), Kazakhstan (Almaty), and Uzbekistan (lashkent).

The Information Wings look after the information, publicity and cultural work of the embassies. Their regular activit es include dissemination of publicity material including pictorial description, video funs, pamphlets etc. to local dignitaries, prominent persons, opinion makers and academic institutions, maintenance of libraries in Indian Missions, arranging press briefings for visiting Indian dignitaries etc. The activities of Cu'tural Centres are to organise lectures, talks, films shows, exhibitions etc. on various aspects of India. Besides, some of the centres organise regular classes on Indian music, dance and yoga.

(c) Countering Pakistan's anti-India propaganda in the O.I.C. countries is an ongoing process. The Government aid the Indian Missions continuously monitor such activities, particularly relating to Kashmir and the condition of Muslims m India. Swift, comprehensive and effective i action is taken to counter Pakistan's false and motivated propaganda. Factual information is regularly provided to decision makers; the media; and the Government., of the e countries through the Indian Missions abroad as well as through the Missions of the O.I.C. countries in India. The Governments of these coui. tries are ;>iso briefed during visits of hig*, level delegations to India and from India to these countries.

Passport Advisory Council

40. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: WiJ the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS | be pleased to state:

(a) whether Passport Advisory Councils in the Regional Passport Offices have been constituted;

(b) if not, the reasons for not consti- ! tuting the Passport Advisory Council'; and

(c) by when the Passport Advisory Councils are going to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal is under the active consideration in consultation with the State Governments concerned. The Councils will be constituted as soon as the?e consultations are complete.

Modification in Ihe NPT

41. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

[1] (a) whether it is a fact that India has I called for necessary modification in the ' nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT)

to convert it into an instrument for achieving genuine non-proliferation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In 1955, the NPT States Parties will be taking a decision regarding its extension. In statements at the ongoing 49th UN General Assembly, India has therefore urged the States Parties to use the 1995 conference to take necessary steps to convert the NPT into an instrument for achieving genuine non-proliferation. It has been reiterated that to be effective, such a global 'non-proliferation regime must be universal, comprehensive, nondiscriminatory and linke.l to the goal of general and comprehensive disarmament. This is in keeping with India's consistent position that the NPT, in its present form is discriminatory and attempts' to create a permanent division between the nuclear 'haves' and 'have nots'.

Sending Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

42. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia has not been filled up since two years;

(b) if so, the reason for not sending an Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and

(c) when the post of Indian Ambassador is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA); (a) No, Sir. The Post of Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia is vacant from 1st February, 1994.

(b) and (c) The appointment of an Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia is under process with the Saudi Arabian authorities.

Involvement of Pakistani Ship in Landing Arms and Ammuition

43. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH; Will ■the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pakistani ship was involved in landing arms and ammunitions including *kOX* explosives, along the Gujarat and Maharashtra coastline *AS* recoiled in the Times of India of October 13, 1994 and if so, what are the facts in this legard; ; , J _>

(b) whether three Pakistani ships also subsequently touched Porbandar and Vaishad in Gujarat and Ratnagiri in Maharashtra;

(c) if so,, what are the facts and rele-v.uit details of these cases;

(d) how many persons have been detained for these violations and what action has been taken against them, and

(e) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to detect such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA); (a) to (e) Relevant information is not readily available and is being ascertained.

Visit of British and American teams to Janunu and Kashmir

44. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British and American teams of Parliamentarians/Congress visited Kashmir recently to study the militancy in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the impressions formed by them and the outcome of the plea made by some deputations for declaring Pakis tan a terrorist state, as it had abetted and sponsored terrorism in J & K forcing lakhs of peop'e to leave their homes and hearths to save their lives and honour?